

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 4-6 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1 and 3 are amended and claims 5 and 6 are added. Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added by these amendments. Support for claims 5 and 6 can be found in Applicant's specification at paragraphs [0040] and [0043], for example. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and following remark is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Hinze in the January 27, 2009 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action objects to the specification for informalities. By this Amendment, the specification has been amended to change the location of the "Brief Description of the Drawings" in the specification to the appropriate location. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,970,952 to Hiraga et al. (hereinafter "Hiraga") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,858,526 to Bengtsson. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 calls for a restricting member that includes the frame member and the damper member and when stamping is made, the damper member is compressed so that the frame member is pressed down and the exposed second print face is compressed until the frame member comes into contact with a stamping object medium.

As discussed with and agreed upon by Examiner Hinze at the personal interview, Hiraga discloses that a platen 25 biased by a spring 25a, and the platen 25 is compressed until the unlabeled alleged frame member appears to come in contact with the casing 1. Therefore, the alleged frame member does not come in contact with a stamping object medium, as called

for in independent claim 1. Thus, Hiraga fails to disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features.

Furthermore, the above-mentioned feature is missing even after Hiraga and Bengtsson are combined, and such a feature would not have been known or obvious. Specifically, Bengtsson's printing blocks 3 (alleged second print face) would have been applied by one of ordinary skill in the art to the outside face of Hiraga's platen 25. Thus, the printing blocks would compress, and in turn the platen 25 would compress by the use of the spring 25a, but again the alleged frame member does not come in contact with a stamping object medium, as called for in independent claim 1.

In addition, as discussed with Examiner Hinze, Applicant asserts that the above-mentioned features are not obvious because according to the stamp recited in independent claim 1, a pressure level desired by a user is applied to the exposed second print face and that pressure is restricted by the frame member. This feature facilitates the outcome that a non-blurred print image can be obtained without the bleeding of ink caused by overpressure. On the other hand, the alleged frame member of Hinze is not designed to contact the stamping object medium in such a manner that it prevents the bleeding of ink from overpressure. Instead, the opposite is true, because you would have to create overpressure of the exposed second print face in order to crush the print face sufficiently that the alleged frame member of Hinze would contact the stamping object medium.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RHR/mcp

Date: January 29, 2009

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